

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: August 9, 2008

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Psychological Assistant Plans for SPE

Sections Affected: 1387, 1387.6

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

This proposal would amend sections 1387(b)(10) and 1387.6 and adopt section 1387(b)(11) to require psychological assistants in private practice settings to submit a plan for supervised professional experience to the Board for prior approval prior to the accrual of supervised professional experience.

Factual Basis/Rationale

Business and Professions Code section 2914 requires, among other requirements, all applicants for licensure as a psychologist to complete at least two years of supervised professional experience (SPE) under the direction of a licensed psychologist, the specific requirements of which shall be defined in regulations. One of the ways in which applicants can accrue the required SPE is as a psychological assistant pursuant to section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code. Due to the nature of the psychological assistant registration, many psychological assistants work in private practice settings where there is no organized training program such as you would find in more formal training settings such as formal internships, governmental settings, etc.

The proposed amendments would require psychological assistants in private practice settings to submit a plan for the accrual of SPE to the Board for prior approval before the psychological assistant can begin accruing SPE. The plan would describe the qualifications and responsibilities of the supervised and/or delegated supervisor and would be developed for, and demonstrate appropriate preparation of, the psychological assistant to practice effectively, and within the specific private practice setting. The plan would address how the quality of work done by the psychological assistant will be monitored and assure protection of the client.

The proposed amendments would also change the term “trainee” to “supervisee” to more accurately reflect the supervisor/supervisee relationship required.

Underlying Data

N/A

Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.